

East side fire damages 3 buildings

Fire

From 1A

"Someone was screaming for baking soda, or water, anything to put the fire out," Liszewski said. "I was scared. I'm just glad everyone made it out."

Lipski said the fire caused an estimated \$120,000 damage to the three structures and \$20,000 in lost contents.

The fire gutted both apartment buildings, he said. The fire was confined to the second floor of the building that houses the two businesses. There may have been

some water and smoke damage to merchandise in the businesses, he said.

Lipski said the narrow area between each building hampered setting up equipment to battle the blaze.

"Setting up the trucks on a busy street didn't help matters."

Police closed off North Farwell Avenue and several side streets. A large crowd gathered to watch. Huge billows of smoke hung above the streets.

Marge Pochert, of Milwaukee, said she watched as small flames in the back of the building grew

and finally engulfed the rest of the building.

"The flames were just shooting out of the roof," Pochert said. "It was a real fiery red and it started coming out of the windows. And all that heavy smoke made it so hard to breathe."

Jason Stein, an employee at Phase 2 Clothing and Skateboards, 2224 N. Farwell Ave., said he and other employees noticed smoke.

"Then we saw everyone running out of the house," Stein said.

From a parking lot behind Von Trier's, 2235 N. Farwell Ave., Stein said onlookers were able to

see "gigantic flames on the top half of the house, spreading to the next building."

"The whole side of both buildings were on fire," he said.

Sentinel staff writers Julio V. Cano, G. Kevin Jordan and Joe Williams contributed to this report.

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